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Viewing cable 08SKOPJE522, HMONG-AMERICANS RECRUIT "TROUBLEMAKERS" FROM THAI

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08SKOPJE522**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08SKOPJE522	2008-08-15 05:44	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Skopje

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2011/04/22/112679/wikileaks-cables-bare-secrets.html>

VZCZCXRO1350
PP RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHSQ #0522 2280544
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 150544Z AUG 08
FM AMEMBASSY SKOPJE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7609
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE 0395
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUESEN/SKOPJE BETA
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RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2333
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S E C R E T VIENTIANE 000309

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STATE FOR DS/IP/EAP
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PACOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/16/2017

TAGS: PREL PGOV MK MN KV EU MA PO

SUBJECT: HMONG-AMERICANS RECRUIT "TROUBLEMAKERS" FROM THAI HOLDING CAMP

REF: A. A: 06 VIENTIANE 1205

1B. B: 07 VIENTIANE 0011
1C. C: 07 BANGKOK 0596

Classified By: AMBASSADOR PATRICIA M. HASLACH FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

¶1. (C) Summary: Unidentified Hmong-Americans are said to be recruiting Hmong from the holding camp in Thailand's Petchabun Province to return to Laos to stage incidents apparently in support of the three-decade-old but failing Hmong insurgency. The Embassy is working to gather more information. Meanwhile we are concerned about the safety of all concerned. End summary.

¶2. (C) An Embassy contact who has reported accurately in the past informed the Embassy by e-mail April 15 that unidentified Hmong Americans had recruited three teams of 7-12 men each, apparently in early February, to go back to Laos "to cause trouble." Shortly after this, the Embassy received reports of fire-fights along Route 13 north of the tourist city of Vang Vieng (about one third of the way from Vientiane north to Luang Prabang) which led first to a warden message and later a public announcement advising AmCits against travel in that area. The contact said the February fighting was caused by these teams returning to Laos.

¶3. (C) The contact also passed on reports that another 50 men had been sent to Bolikhamsai Province -- an area where the Embassy believes virtually all insurgents have surrendered to the Lao authorities or fled the country (Ref A). The Embassy is not aware of any upsurge of fighting in Bolikhamsay.

¶4. (C) The contact also reported that recruitment continued in early April, but the Hmong-Americans were only able to recruit 100 from the camp; their goal was reportedly 300 new fighters. There is no additional information about the specific focus of this additional group of 100 men.

Comment

¶5. (S) We are trying to set a time to meet this contact in person to be able to gather more precise information, including names of those involved if possible, than that which can be sent over the Internet. We are increasingly concerned about the safety not only of the Hmong Americans who are reported to be engaged in recruiting these fighters to return to Laos but also the safety of this contact as well as that of respected Hmong activists such as Laura Xiong who have been working to help Hmong leaders, particularly those at the Nong Khai Immigration Detention Center (Ref C). As per Ref B, there have been a series of more than 20 assassinations in northeastern Thailand of Hmong Americans and Lao Americans during the past few years. Those targeted for assassination have fallen into a nearly identical demographic -- that of those threatening Lao stability.

HASLACH